

But, Mr. Speaker, not all is gloom, doom, and despair. There is great hope. The American people are not fooled. People in our country now fear the government, and people are mad, and people are involved. And even though the D.C. crowd pays no attention to them, I've got news for the elites: The people are not going away in the darkness of the night. They will not give up without a fight, because the American cause is righteous, and the people's actions are just.

Government should not underestimate the American soul and the American spirit. They are a force to be reckoned with. Mr. Speaker, the people want their country back, and they will get it back. After all, the Constitution says, "We the People," not, "We, the subjects."

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING SPECIALIST MICHAEL COTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, this may be the last address given on the floor of the House of Representatives this year. It is fitting that it is a tribute to Michael Cote, a specialist who gave his life while fighting to defend us in Iraq.

Specialist Cote was from Denham Springs, Louisiana. After graduating from Denham Springs High School, he met his wife, Ashlee, when the two were in basic training. They passed notes back and forth during their training and snuck off to church services to be together on weekends. Just days after basic training ended, the two soldiers were married.

Michael was serving in Iraq when their daughter, Brooke, was born in March, but he found a way to be on the phone with Ashlee during the delivery. She delivered in Baton Rouge.

Ashlee tells me that Michael liked to fish and hunt. She says he was an all-around country boy who liked to goof around but always knew when it was time to be a soldier.

Michael was serving as a crew chief when his Black Hawk helicopter went down in Balad, Iraq, in September.

On the day of his memorial service, the people of Denham Springs lined the streets to wave American flags as the procession went by. Families brought their children and grandchildren out to honor Specialist Cote, a tribute to a man friends and family in Denham Springs say they knew would grow up to be a soldier.

His mother, Carol Bass, tells me that she visits the grave daily.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn with Ashlee, Brooke, and Mrs. Bass the loss of Specialist Cote, but let us celebrate his patriotism, his dedication to country, his sacrifice on behalf of our security.

We are forever indebted to the men and women of our armed services, soldiers like Michael Cote, who put themselves in harm's way so that we may live freely and in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### REFLECTIONS FROM 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the rush of a debate in an earlier 1-minute, I was not able to capture the somberness of the moment. As our colleagues have finished their work and have, in fact, recognized the need of this Nation, I think it is important to summarize how important it is to keep our minds focused as we return back in the new year.

We know that this country is a resilient country. People are tough, and they've gotten tougher. We are blessed by the fact that we have a country of laws. We're a democratic Nation. If there is oppression in our Nation, we have a court system to seek to be redeemed. We have the amenities of life, technology, transportation, clean water. But in every country comes a time when things are not as good as they need to be, and I think we should clarify what has been done over these last couple of months.

I was here during the past two Presidential terms. When I say "two Presidential terms," the past and former Presidents. I voted for the 1997 Budget Reconciliation Act that generated an enormous surplus and created an opportunity for millions of our children to be insured. That was 1997. We had a surplus as that previous administration, the Clinton administration, left office.

We had a tragedy on 9/11, and we had to respond to that enormous tragedy, a terrorist act, and I joined with my colleagues to respond to that by allowing our Nation to defend itself by going into Afghanistan. I did not support the detour into Iraq. However, I support the men and women, and I mourn for those families who have lost loved ones.

So what have we done over this year? We have fought for America, and that is why there was the political sacrifice. Some people say that's your job, to vote for the TARP—not willingly. We didn't want a fat-cat bill. We didn't want a bill that paid people to stuff their pockets. We wanted to ensure that businesses stayed open, that we had the opportunity for small businesses, my friends and neighbors, my constituents to get money to keep those jobs.

All right, it wasn't perfect, but the numbers don't fib. We did create jobs. We kept businesses open. The President has gone to the mat by saying to these fat cats, Look, we are in a capitalistic system. I understand that. But he's gone to them and said, You have to lend to small businesses.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, we have done a lot. And in doing a lot, we have provided the opportunity for the kinds of dollars coming to the districts.

So let me just say this: \$48 billion in highways, transit and other infrastructure. We are going to be able to stop the bleeding by keeping our teachers, our police, our firefighters and job training. That's \$27 billion. We are going to guarantee the loans, guarantee loans to ensure that we will have the opportunity to loan money to our small businesses. That's an important statement.

And I wanted to be sure by looking at what I have to let my constituents know of the kind of projects that come out of the Defense bill. Because someone would make the argument, why support a Defense bill? Let me tell you. I've already spoken about the first post-traumatic stress disorder center in an African American hospital for \$1 million, \$800,000 for the Center for Research on Minority Health-Prostate Cancer research project, jobs; \$800,000 for high-efficiency solar energy generation and storage, jobs; \$1.6 million for science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiative, jobs. And then \$1 million with a private collaborator that is independent of Federal dollars that will give \$1 million to one of the poorest school districts in my community, public and private partnership, Mr. Speaker.

Let us not leave this place in shame. We came from the deep darkness of an economic recession. We have saved jobs. We are creating jobs. We are moving forward. And I want to stop reading articles about mothers who are on the front pages of our newspapers who cannot turn on the lights and cannot feed their children.

Let me wish everyone, again, as I have done, a happy holiday and say that this Congress deserves the recognition for those who have put themselves on the line to be able to help the needy. I look forward to us coming back, passing health care, and going on with the jobs effort.